BA 2810, Granite Manufacturing Company/Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, 1807, ca. 1848.
Ellicott City, private access.
Capsule Summary, page 1.

Description:

No remains are visible above ground for the mill site, however, documentary sources detail four structures in existence in the nineteenth century. The Granite Cotton Factory was a four-story granite building, probably constructed in two campaigns, beginning ca. 1848. The Machine Manufacturing Shop was a three-story granite structure which probably incorporated some portion of the Ellicott Rolling Mill; ca. 1807, refitted about 1844. Similarly, the Foundry may have been part of the original Ellicott complex. It was a single-story granite building, also ca. 1807, refitted about 1844. Finally, a wooden dam was used for both the rolling mill and the cotton factory, and was maintained in the same position for each enterprise.

Significance:

Two distinct and important industrial installations have occupied this site on the Baltimore-County side of the Patapsco

BA 2810, Granite Manufacturing Company/Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, 1807, ca. 1848.
Ellicott City, private access.
Capsule Summary, page 2.

River. The Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill was under construction in 1807, and first advertised for business in 1808. The Granite Manufacturing Company acquired the site in the early 1840s, and began operations about 1844 as a cotton textile mill.

The Ellicott Rolling Mill marked the beginning of a new phase in the Patapsco Valley's iron industry, which had first developed during the colonial period, and by the opening of the nineteenth century had almost completely lapsed. The Ellicott family had risen to prominence as the founders of Maryland's first merchant flour milling operation, and their move into nail manufacture and finished metalworking introduced needed energy, capital, and modernizations. They purchased equipment from one defunct colonial operation--the Hockley forge--became owners of the struggling Dorsey's forge, which they rechristened the Avalon Works, and finally they bought and rebuilt the long silent Elkridge Iron Furnace. Metalworking operations continued at all three facilities--under different owners--into the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

BA 2810, Granite Manufacturing Company/Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, 1807, ca. 1848.
Ellicott City, private access.
Capsule Summary, page 3.

The financial panic of 1837 began the collapse of the Ellicott's industrial holdings, and eventually made the Rolling Mill facility available for purchase. A group of investors acquired the property in a complicated arrangement of leases and subleases, and the Granite Manufacturing Company was incorporated by the State of Maryland in 1843. The Granite Company was the fourth cotton textile mill to open in the Patapsco Valley, direct successor to the large-scale industrial development begun in the region by the Ellicotts, and later diversified and expanded by other investors. Market conditions at mid-century proved unfavorable, and the company eventually could not meet its mortgage payments. Johns Hopkins of Baltimore, and others, purchased Granite at auction in 1863, and renovated the facilities. The destructive flood of 1868 resulted in the total loss of the entire physical plant at Granite, and the factory was never rebuilt.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIO PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIO PROPERTIES State Historic Sites Inventory-Form

Survey No. BA 2810

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Nai	me (indicate p	referred name)		
historic	Granite Manufactu	uring Company/Ellic	ott Iron Rolling an	d Slitting Mill
and/or commo	on .			
2. Loc	ation			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & numb	oer Oella Aveni	ue, N of intersection	with Frederick Ro	ad not for publication
city, town	Ellicott City	vicinity of	congressional district	Seventh
Maryland state		county	Baltimore	
3. Cla	ssification			
Category district building(structure structure object		Status occupiedX unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: undevelope
4. Ow	ner of Prope	erty (give names a	nd mailing addre sses	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name	narles L. Wagandt			
street & numb	803 er	Oella Avenue	telephone no	410/465-1700
city, town	Ellicott City	state		yland 21043
5. Loc	cation of Le	gal Description		
courthouse, restreet & numb	egistry of deeds, etc. Courts Building per	altimore County Circ		6572 liber 218 folio
city, town	Towson			Maryland
6. Re	presentatio	n in Existing	Historical Surve	eys
title Archa	eological Data Red	covery at the Granite	e Factory, Oella, M	laryland
_{date} 1982			federal state	county X local
depository for	r survey records Ma	ryland Historical Tr		
city, town	Crownsville		state N	Maryland 21032

7. Description			Survey No.			BA 2810	
Condition		Check one	Check one				
excellent good	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site moved date of	move			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

No remains are visible above ground for the mill site.

fair

X unexposed

No description contemporary with the operation of the Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill provides a picture of its architectural features. In 1844, this facility was incorporated into the group of structures comprising the Granite Manufacturing Company. Three of these structures were described in 1863, as follows:

- 1) The Granite Cotton Factory, ca. 1848, but perhaps constructed in two campaigns. This building possessed two component parts, one 116 feet long by 48 feet wide, and the other 44 feet long by 36 feet wide. The whole was four stories, of granite, with floors supported by girders (probably of iron); a gable roof surmounted the structure with a cupola at the entry.
- 2) The Machine Manufacturing Shop, 1807?, refitted 1844? A three-story granite structure, 84 feet by 45 feet. This building, or some portion of it was probably the former Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill.
- 3) The Foundry, 1807?, refitted 1844? A one-story granite structure, 85 feet by 75 feet. Perhaps this building, or some portion of it was also associated with the Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill.

The dams for these successive enterprises were evidently maintained in the same position for both the iron rolling and cotton mills. Documentary evidence, detailed in Section 8, Significance, suggests they were built of wood, and during the era of the Granite Factory, this wooden frame contained or was reinforced by a quantity of loose gravel and fill.

8. 3	eignificance	Survey No. BA 2810
Period prehi 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900	-1499 X archeology-historic conservation -1599 agriculture economics -1699 architecture education -1799 art engineering	ing landscape architecture religion law science literature sculpture military social/ music humanitarian theater politics/government transportation other (specify)
Specific	dates 1807; ca. 1848 Builder/Architect	unknown
check:	Applicable Criteria: XA XB C D and/or Applicable Exception: A B C D Level of Significance:national X stat	
Prepare support	both a summary paragraph of significance a	nd a general statement of history and

Granite Manufacturing Company Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill

The Granite Manufacturing Company site actually comprises two distinct and important installations, neither of which survive above ground. The first, and earlier of these, is the Ellicott Family Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, established in 1807; and the second is the Granite Cotton Factory, probably built in 1848. The rolling mill was the Ellicott family's first successful, large scale investment in manufacturing in addition to the merchant milling of grains. Iron furnaces and forges had been established in the Patapsco valley in the mideighteenth century; the Ellicotts capitalized on this existing market, and eventually purchased the two other nearby facilities, at Avalon and Elkridge. Their role in the industrialization of the Patapsco valley was a central one, and the consequent expansion and development of the port of Baltimore of major significance to the state and nation.

The Granite Cotton Factory was the fourth and last textile manufacturing enterprise to be established in the Patapsco valley, and its existence follows directly from the industrial development promoted by the Ellicotts. The investors at Granite sought a place in the regional textile market with the Union, Patapsco, and Thistle Manufacturing Companies, and the sudden availability of convenient mill seats and related infrastructure, which came from Ellicott family divestment in the late 1830s, made this possible. The Granite investors attempted to take advantage of the nearby railroad and a growing market in the 1840's; however, the repeal of protective tariffs in 1846 may have provoked the market instabilities which drove the company to bankruptcy. The potential rewards of substantial new investment made in the early 1860s--including such modern amenities as steam heat and gas lighting--will never be known, as both

[Please see continuation sheet.]

the rolling mill and Granite factory were destroyed in the flood of 1868. Neither was rebuilt. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century alternative mechanical sources of industrial power took precedence over traditional water power, and large-scale operations could be sited more easily and safely in urban areas.

Martha Ellicott Tyson recalled in her memoir of the founding of Ellicott's Mills, published in 1866, that the Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill began operations in 1806 (Tyson, p. 46). Significantly, Joseph Scott noticed the facility under construction when he made observations of the mills for his 1807 review of the geography of Maryland and Delaware (Scott, p. 92). With allowances for time spent in publication, his visit likely occurred no later than 1806. Assessors for the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 did not record a rolling and slitting mill on the site, which places construction of the facility certainly after that date. Nevertheless, the Ellicott family did undertake iron production and working as an adjunct to their flour milling business almost from the beginning of their residence in the Patapsco valley. On 4 July 1780, Andrew Ellicott (1754-1820) advertised in the Maryland Journal his "STEEL-FURNACE, at Ellicott's Upper-Mills, on the main falls of Patapsco" for lease. Though no other record of this furnace is known, it could have supplied raw iron to the Ellicott and Company blacksmith shop, assessed on the Anne Arundel side of the Patapsco Ellicott and Company did keep stores of nails on hand as an article of trade, witnessed here in one of the very few surviving orders to the Company from the eighteenth century: on 15 September 1791, [illegible] Simpson, Sr., traded his wheat to "Friend Ellicott" for £--/7/6 worth of 10 d nails, 2 bushels fine salt, and the balance of the wheat in hobb nails (Maryland Historical Society, Manuscripts, Ellicott Family Accounts). Iron rolling and cutting machinery gave the Ellicott Company an opportunity to produce nail-rod, nails, and other useful materials on a large scale; as their flour-milling business increased, it is not surprising that they assigned some of their profits to a larger scale, professional iron-working enterprise.

The first mention of this business, which they called the "Baltimore Rolling and Slitting Mill," occurs in the *Federal Gazette* of 24 May 1808. Andrew and Thomas Ellicott, residents of Baltimore City and sons of Andrew Ellicott (1734-1789) an original half-owner of Ellicott's Lower Mills, notified the Baltimore public that they "are daily receiving from the manufactory 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 20 penny nails; hoop iron for cut nails; spike and nail rod." Five years later, on 20 November 1813, *Niles Weekly Register* celebrated "a machine at

Ellicott's mills that cuts. . . twelve hundred nails in one minute," and the Baltimore County assessment records for that same year calculated the value of the slitting mill at 3000 dollars. Baltimore County again assessed the slitting mill at 3000 dollars in 1818, noting that the value of the land on which it stood increased from ten dollars to twelve dollars per acre over the same period. An anonymous traveler observed the installation in the 1820's, calling it "a furnace and a nail factory," though in writing of the site placed it incorrectly on the Anne Arundel side of the river ("A short account of Ellicotts P[atapsco] Mills," Maryland Historical Society, Ms 1530, Redwood Collection, Box 5).

The slitting mill dam at this time was most likely of wood; the survey of an adjacent parcel recorded metes and bounds relative to a "Letter X Marked in a Rock on the opposite side of the Falls about three perches from the western abutment of the Slitting Mill dam then North five degrees west . . . in a direct line towards a large Rock near the Middle of the Falls against which the Slitting Mill dam rests." (Baltimore 59/465, citing an earlier deed dated 29 December 1823, Baltimore WG 169/469 and Anne Arundel WSG 10/85). After the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began running regularly scheduled trains to Ellicott's Mills in 1830, Charles Varle recorded a correctly placed view of the rolling mill, contrasting "the sable looking establishment" on the Baltimore County side with the "magnificent cascade" at Sucker Branch, across the river; later he continued, "here they roll iron into sheets and manufacture spades, shovels, nails &c. Warehouse, corner of Light and Pratt streets" in Baltimore City (Varle, pp. 111, 101; and, Redwood Collection).

A property partition of 9 September 1812, had apportioned equally the ownership of the rolling mill among John Ellicott (1769-1820) [son of John (1739-1795), an original half-owner of Ellicott's Lower Mills], and his three first cousins, Jonathan (1756-1826), Elias (1759-1827), and George (1760-1832) [sons of Andrew (1734-1789) the other original half-owner of Ellicott's Lower Mills] (Anne Arundel WSG 2/119). At the death of this second generation of owners, shares of the rolling mill were divided among their surviving sons, fifteen in number. A trustee's sale of the estate of William Ellicott (1793-1836), one of the fifteen, and a son of Jonathan (1756-1826), included his "undivided fifteenth part of the rolling mill and tilt hammer and other machinery" (Baltimore American, 30 July 1838, col. 15). The ultimate dissolution of the Ellicott family's ownership of all the mills in the valley occurred as a result of the financial panic of 1837; much of the property was vested in trustee Robert Mickle. Both Mickle and Evan Ellicott (1793-1867),

another of the fifteen, conveyed the rolling mill property to a number of individuals who in turn leased the land to the Granite Manufacturing Company of Maryland (Howard 3/305; Baltimore AWB 351/378; Howard 6/131; Howard 6/192).

Chartered by the state General Assembly at the December session 1843, the Granite Manufacturing Company incorporated the rolling mill structures into its operations, but constructed a new building for the cotton factory, probably in 1848-9. Company operations began in 1844 (Granite Mfg. Co. Minute Book). In 1846, the Company bought the Patapsco Hotel in Ellicott City, most likely to provide housing for workers, though within a year it turned this property over to Thomas Wilson (Howard 6/511, and Howard 7#2/357). Wilson and [Thomas] Lansdale subleased the Granite properties in the spring of 1848, and began construction of a number of residences for workers (Baltimore 395/230, and Howard 22/429). Just over a month later, the Company mortgaged the entire property (Baltimore AW B 398/230, and Howard EPH 8/105). This 1848 mortgage may have provided construction funds for the new factory building.

By the spring of 1850, 132 looms and 4000 spindles kept 150 workers busy producing muslin fabrics. Thomas Lansdale managed the facility. The former Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill had been re-christened the Maryland Machine Manufacturing Company, and there in a machine shop and foundry, 100 employees were "prepared to manufacture all kinds of cotton [factory equipment] and other machinery . . . under the supervision of Geo. Poe" (*Howard Gazette*, v. II, no. 9, 23 March 1850).

Additional issues of the *Howard Gazette* for 1850 reveal work stoppages at the factory, the result of bad market conditions, and evidently the Company did not generate enough revenue over the next decade to meet its obligations. The mortgage holders filed suit in Baltimore Circuit Court, and on 21 February 1863, a court-ordered sale took place (Howard 22/429). The trustees' advertisement in the 3 January 1863 issue of the *Baltimore American* offers a detailed picture of the factory and related structures, including the former rolling mill, all on the Baltimore County side of the river:

The granite stone factory was constructed 160 feet long of two component parts, one 116 feet long by 48 feet wide, and the other 44 feet long by 36 feet wide, both four stories high (116 and 44 making a total length of 160 feet). "Each story [is] eleven feet in the clear, the floors are of modern construction, flat and built on girders, the roof is of tin and fire-proof." A force pump supplied a water tank in the garret, with a hose for each story. Two overshot

water wheels were "capable of using the whole volume of water from the Patapsco river." Gearing driven by belts propelled 101 muslin and drill looms. The factory buildings were warmed by steam and illuminated by gas lights.

Adjacent to the factory were a granite machine shop, 3 stories high, with a tin roof, 84 feet by 45 feet, steam heat and gas lights; and a granite foundry. In common with the foundry was a separate wheel and gearing. The foundry was 85 feet by 75 feet, one story, with an iron roof. Also here were "a number of tenant houses suitable for the workmen" (*Baltimore American*, 3 January 1863, col. 24).

Johns Hopkins, of Baltimore, was among the four purchasers in 1863 (Howard 22/429). The Company reorganized, and within a year purchased the leasehold; for the first time the company owned the buildings and property in its own right, though the former leaseholders retained ownership of the Company (Baltimore 39/477). The sizable dam at the Granite factory, funneling the whole waters of the Patapsco, appears not to have been constructed entirely of ashlar masonry, but of a quantity of fill material. This was probably retained by wood--as many dams on the Patapsco were of wooden construction--though no material is specified here: the owners "reserve[d] for themselves the right to dig stone, dirt, and gravel for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding from time to time the dam of the Granite Manufacturing Company should it be injured or carried away" (Howard 23/582).

Four years later, in July 1868, not only would the dam be over-run, but the factory building itself destroyed. The 27 July issue of the *Baltimore American* and the 29 July issue of the Ellicott City *Common Sense* reported of the devastation; the force of water undermined the recently rebuilt mill and of the whole complex, left only one wall standing. An engraving published in *Harper's Weekly*, 8 and 15 August 1868, shows a view down river over the site of the mill, the single wall standing on the left.

From 1868 to 1871, Benjamin Deford, one of the former leaseholders and the plant manager, recorded rental payments on tenant house numbers one through twenty, presumably belonging to the Company. Two temporary residents included Joseph Gambrill, of the family operating the former Ellicott's Lower Mills, and Mrs. [John Pendleton ?] Kennedy, whose residence at Gray's Factory was also severely damaged (Rent Receipt Account Book, 1868-1871, kept by B--- Deford; Howard County Historical Society Library, RA 11). The factory site was auctioned pursuant to a Court order in 1872, and the land leased to the Union Manufacturing Company in 1875 (Baltimore 91/199, and Baltimore 91/211). No structure was ever rebuilt.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2810

Please see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of nominated property	ences	1 : 24,000 Quadrangle scale _ 7.5 Series
Zone Easting Northing	B	e Easting Northing
	D F H	
Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the site conformation parcel 1140, west of the existing the properties overlands and counties for properties overlands.	ng Granite	
state code	county	county boundaries
state code	county	code
1. Form Prepared By		
name/title Henry K. Sharp		
organization none		date 22 July 1998
street & number 100 South Street West		telephone 804/295-0140
city or town Charlottesville		state Virginia 22902

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle Annapolis Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD

100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

"A short account of Ellicotts P[atapsco] Mills," [1828], Maryland Historical Society, Ms 1530, Redwood Collection, Box 5.

Baltimore American, 30 July 1838, col. 15; 3 Jan 1863, col. 24; 27 July 1868, p.1.

The Common Sense, Ellicott City, 29 July 1868.

Federal Gazette, 24 May 1808, col. 16.

Granite Manufacturing Company of Maryland, Minute Book, 1844-1861, Elutherian Mills Historical Society, Greenville, Delaware.

Harper's Weekly, 8 and 15 August 1868.

Howard Gazette, v. II (23 Mar 1850) no. 9; v. II (11 May 1850) no. 16; v. II (18 May 1850) no. 17; v. II (28 Dec 1850) no. 52.

McGrain, John W. "The Development and Decline of Dorsey's Forge." Maryland Historical Magazine 72 (Fall 1972) 3: 346-352.

____. From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County. Towson, Md.: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.

_____. *Molinography in Maryland Series*, Baltimore County notebook. Maryland State Archives, Special Collections, MSA SC 4300, loc 02/04/14.

Niles Weekly Register, v. 520 (Nov 1813): 207.

Scott, Joseph. Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware. Philadelphia: Kimbler, Conrad, & Co., 1807.

Stettler, Henry Louis, III. Growth and Fluctuations in the Ante-bellum Textile Industry. New York: Arno Press, 1977.

Tyson, Martha Ellicott. A Brief Account of the Settlement of Ellicott's Mills. Baltimore: J. Murphy, 1871.

Varle, Charles. A Complete View of Baltimore. Baltimore: Samuel Young, 1833.

Howard County Historical Society Library, Ellicott City, Maryland:

Schofield, John. Panoramic View of the Scenery on the Patapsco, Ellicotts Mills, Md.

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division:

Martenet's Map of Howard County, 1860; G 3843 .H6 1860 .M3; Raynolds' Military Map of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1863; G 3843 .B3 1863 .R3;

Taylor's Map of the City and County of Baltimore, 1857; G 3843 .B3 1857 .T3.

Inventory Number BA 2810
Granite Manufacturing Company/
Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, Baltimore County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan
Statewide Historic Contexts

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological Development/Periods:

- 9) Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- 10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:

- 1) Agriculture
- 3) Economic

Resource Type:

Category: Site

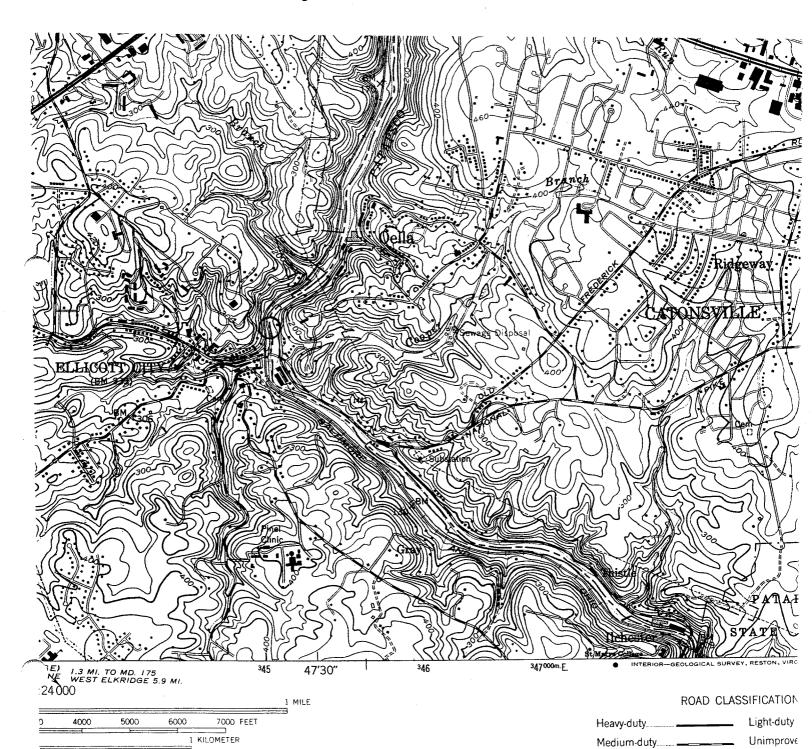
Historic Environment: Village

Historic Functions and Uses: Iron Slitting and Rolling Mill, Metal Machine

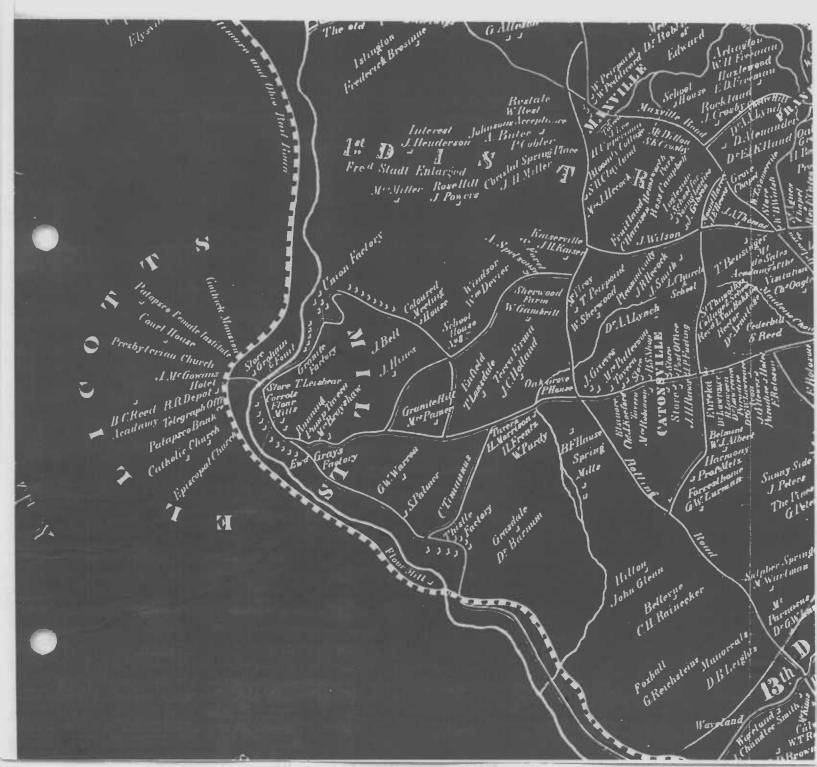
Shop, Cotton Mill

Known Design Sources: None

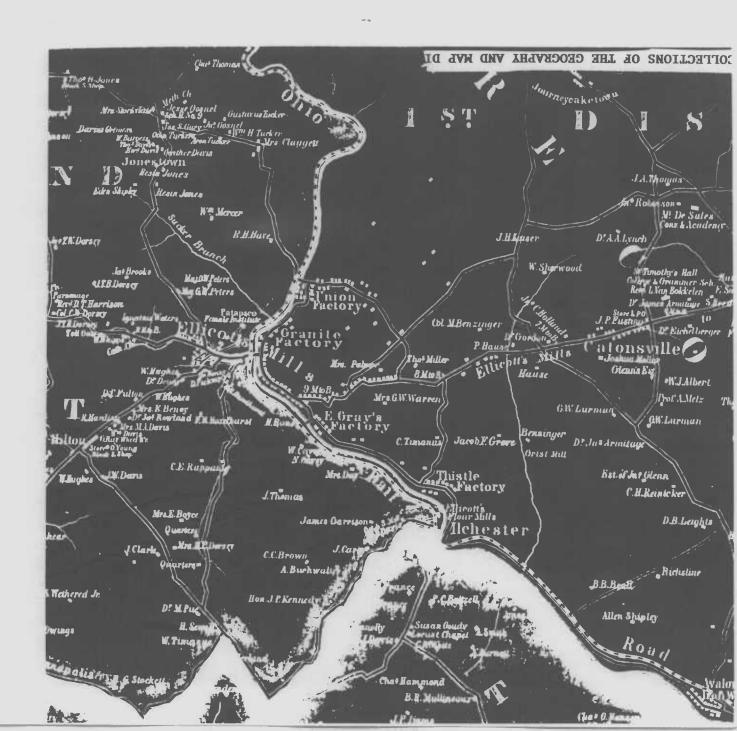
U.S. Geological Survey Ellicott City 7.5 Quadrangle



Taylor's Map of the City and County of Baltimore, 1857, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .B3 1857 .T3.



Martenet's Map of Howard County, 1860, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .H6 1860 .M3.

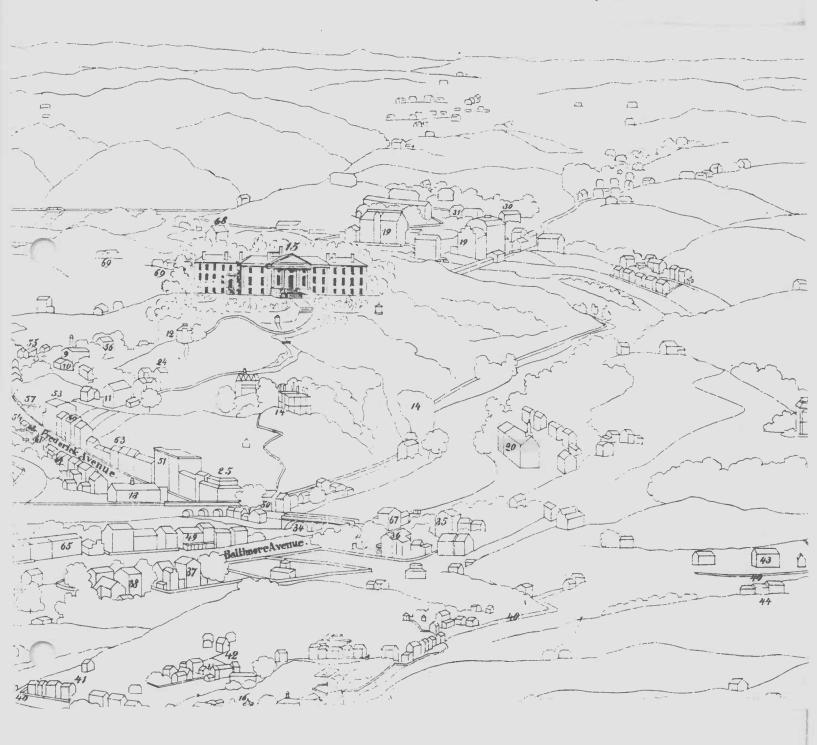


Raynolds' Military Map of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1863, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .B3 1863 .R3.



John Schofield, Panoramic View of the Scenery on the Patapsco, Ellicotts Mills, Md. [key],

Howard County Historical Society Library, Ellicott City, Maryland.



Harper's Weekly, 15 August 1868, p. 517.

Sketch of the Patapsco River downstream from the site of the dam for the Granite Manufacturing Company. The single wall standing at left is the only remaining portion of the Granite Cotton Mill.



THE MARYLAND FLOOD-SCENE AT ELLICOTT CITY AFTER THE FLOOD.-SRETCHED BY T. R.



GRANITE MANUFACTURING COMPANY/ELLICOTT IRON
POLLING AND SLITTING MILL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
HENRY IC. SHARE
JUNE 1999
MARYLAND SUPO (FILED WITH BA 2809)
SITE SHELL VIEW NORTHWEST